

Statement of Position Regarding the Governor's Budget Proposal Pertaining to the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center

WHEREAS, on February 16th 2011, Governor Malloy introduced his proposed state budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013;

WHEREAS, in his address, the Governor expressed his desire to increase the number of sustainable jobs in the state;

WHEREAS, included in the aforementioned proposal is a \$25,462,590 reduction in block grant funding for fiscal year 2012 for the University of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, included in the aforementioned proposal is a \$24,776,584 reduction in block grant funding for fiscal year 2013 for the University of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, included in the aforementioned proposal is a net \$11,911,276 reduction in funding for fiscal year 2012 for the University of Connecticut Health Center;

WHEREAS, included in the aforementioned proposal is a net \$11,499,239 reduction in funding for fiscal year 2013 for the University of Connecticut Health Center;

WHEREAS, in his address, the Governor placed a great deal of emphasis on the need for Connecticut's research and development field to grow;

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center add over \$2 billion to Connecticut's gross domestic product on average each year;

WHEREAS, Connecticut businesses experience over \$3 billion in new sales as a result of the ongoing operations of the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center;

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center generate more than 29,000 jobs in the State;

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center generate over a 500% return on investment for Connecticut's gross domestic product;

WHEREAS, as a result of the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center's operations, Connecticut realizes a net financial gain of over \$70 million annually;

WHEREAS, the affordability of attending the University of Connecticut entices Connecticut and other residents to earn their degrees at this University, of which more than two-thirds remain in the state, contributing to the Connecticut workforce;

WHEREAS, many institutions at the University of Connecticut including but not limited to the Edgelab, the SS&C Technologies Financial Accelerator, the Eminent Faculty Initiative in Sustainable Energy, the Connecticut Global Fuel Center, the Connecticut Information Technology Institute, the Institute of Materials Science Associates Program, the Center for Pharmaceutical Processing Research, the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Office of Technology Commercialization, the Center for Applied Genetics and Technology, the Stem Cell Institute, and the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention, all contribute to the state's research and development mission, and often provide job opportunities through commercialization opportunities;

WHEREAS, through the numerous programs, institutes, and centers, individuals at the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center contribute thousands of hours of volunteer work within the State;

WHEREAS, an investment in the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center is a short and long term investment in the improvement and sustainability of Connecticut's economy;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Government of the University of Connecticut at Storrs urges and requests that lawmakers of the Connecticut General Assembly maintain the current levels of the University of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Health Center's block grant funding.

Author: Comptroller Brien Buckman

Sponsor: Senator Jordan Hegel